

A Long Way from Chicago

Richard Peck

Setting: rural Illinois

Time: summers of 1929-1935, 1942

1. Main Characters: Joey and Mary Alice Dowdel and Grandma Dowdel

2. Roles of Main Characters:

3. History: the story of a long way from Chicago is during the depression in America. While the society was tough, this novel goes through many achievements or tapers one's life. In this story it mentions Civil War, Mexican War, Battle of Cerro Gordo, and World War 1 which mentions survivors, and at the end of the book how Joey has entered World War 2. Another historical reference was that of banks going under and people were worried about money. Also mentions presidential figures "Roosevelt and Lincoln". In the story it also mentioned prohibition which is illegal making of alcohol.

4. Summarize: This story is taken place of the depression that lasted about 9 years. Joey and his sister Mary Alice, live in Chicago, visit their grandma in rural Illinois through the summers of

the depression. They find it not to be boring as they thought and grandma is not a typical grandma. They both saw a corpse of Shotgun Cheatham the very first summer they went to see their grandma, help grandma trespass to catch food illegally passing through the sheriffs property, feed the poor “drifters” they called them, going to county fairs and making pies for contest and grandma switching numbers to win, and how grandma pushed the bank around “help give Mrs. Wilcox’s house bank from for closer”. The children loved to have activities that kept them busy at grandma’s house from Mary Alice bringing her jump rope or tap shoes to dance while joey helped around the house or outside work but tried to get money for lessons to fly Hudson Terraplane which is his dream to do. They both loved to sneak off to spend their 25 cent to get a favorite drink of Nehi soda. With the love of war and planes, Joey declared to go into World War 2 with his old dreams of flying.

5. Missing leading: I don’t think that this book would be any miss leading to the readers. This book explains content very well so that the readers can partake in.